

## Health Economics Resource Center

### Average Cost Data

#### Introduction

Researchers at the VA Health Economics Resource Center developed a method, called the “average cost” method, to estimate costs of VA patient encounters. They have created the Average Cost Data containing costs of VA medical/surgical care; rehabilitation, mental health, and longterm care; and outpatient care.

Extensive information about the Health Economics Resource Center (HERC) Average Cost Data are available on the HERC internet website.

HERC website: <http://www.herc.research.va.gov/include/page.asp?id=average-cost>

Guidebooks to the data are available at  
<http://www.herc.research.va.gov/include/page.asp?id=guidebooks>

#### About VA-HRS HERC Data Files

VA-HRS HERC Average Cost Data files retain the structure and naming conventions of the original HERC data. Demographic variables, variables that were included in earlier years but have been discontinued, and administrative variables have been removed. In addition, data containing information about diagnosis or treatment of USC 38 Section 7332 protected medical conditions<sup>1</sup> has been removed.

#### File Names:

- VAHRS\_MDSRG9913
- VAHRS\_NMDSRG9913
- VAHRS\_DISCHG9913
- VAHRS\_OPCSE9913

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<sup>1</sup> [http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=\(title:38%20section:7332%20edition:prelim\)%20OR%20\(granuleid:USC-prelim-title38-section7332\)&f=treesort&edition=prelim&num=0&jumpTo=true](http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:38%20section:7332%20edition:prelim)%20OR%20(granuleid:USC-prelim-title38-section7332)&f=treesort&edition=prelim&num=0&jumpTo=true)